

PETER N. PERRETTI, JR.
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL
EXAMINERS
DOCKET NO. 86-52

IN THE MATTER OF:

RICHARD A. HARTKOPF, D.V.M.

and

RONALD A. SWIST, D.V.M.

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: Administrative Action
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: CONSENT ORDER
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This matter having come before this Board upon information that on June 12, 1986, a male golden retriever named "Casey" which was owned by Mary A. Hackett was delivered to Richard A. Hartkopf, D.V.M., for bathing. The dog was bathed and thereafter placed in a dryer by an employee. The dryer malfunctioned and caused the dog's paws to be injured. Upon learning of said injury Dr. Hartkopf immediately advised the owner and requested that the dog be kept by him overnight to monitor the injury. Ms. Hackett agreed to such and upon her way to work the following morning, at about 8:30 a.m., she stopped at Dr. Hartkopf's office to see Casey.

Casey was presented to her by Ronald A. Swist, D.V.M., as Dr. Hartkopf had not yet arrived at the office. Ms. Hackett immediately decided to take Casey home. Dr. Swist gave Ms. Hackett a tube of "Panalog" ointment to apply to Casey's feet. However, at the time of discharge Dr. Swist did not inform Ms. Hackett of the consequences that might result from the injury, nor that such would not manifest until a few days had elapsed. Thereafter, Casey developed lesions and other complications which had to be treated by another veterinarian in order to be restored to good health, and which treatment cost \$619.

Whereas, the parties desire to settle this matter without formal litigation and the Board being of the opinion that the interest of the public will be protected hereby,

IT IS on this 19th day of March, 1989,

ORDERED that:

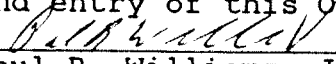
1. Ronald A. Swist, D.V.M. is hereby reprimanded for failing to advise his patient's owner of the potential consequences which might result from the animal's condition subsequent to removal from the hospital.

2. Ronald H. Swist shall pay a penalty of \$500 contemporaneously with the entry of this Order.

3. Richard A. Hartkopf shall make restitution to Mary A. Hackett in the sum of \$619 by submitting a check to this Board payable to Ms. Hackett contemporaneously with this Order.


By Michael J. Hennessy, DVM
Michael J. Hennessy, President
Board of Veterinary
Medical Examiners

I consent to the form
and entry of this Order

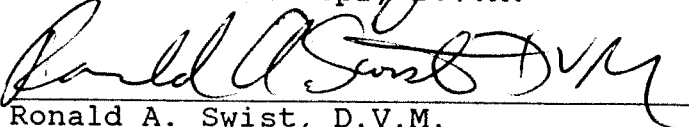


Paul R. Williams, Jr., Esq.
Attorney for Drs. Hartkopf and Swist

We have read this Order
and understand its terms.
We consent to be bound by
it and agree to its entry.



Richard A. Hartkopf, D.V.M.



Ronald A. Swist, D.V.M.